

drug companies, as well as the insurance companies, were the ones that wrote the bill.

I know what we have to do. We have to take from this calendar, after we finish the PATRIOT Act, we have to push aside all the special interest legislation. We spent a week and a half on a bill last week, the clash of the special interest titans over asbestos. We have to set those aside and say, for at least a week, instead of taking up special interest legislation, we are going to take up the Medicare prescription drug bill. We are going to make this work. We are going to finally put something together that is an honor to the people who are part of our Medicare system.

I don't know if we can do that. When the President signed this bill, people said: You are going to have to change some parts of it. He said: I am not going to touch it, not a word.

The President should show a little humility. All of us in public life should from time to time. As we look at this Medicare prescription drug program, we know it is not working for America, it is not working for seniors. It is causing much too much heartache, much too much concern.

This much I will say I have learned, having been in public life a few years. There is one thing about senior citizens, they know who is on their side. They have long memories. I might add, they vote. If the leaders in Congress, the Republican leaders, the President's own party, do not understand how badly this Medicare prescription Part D program is working, some of the seniors may give them their medicine in November. They have to understand we have a responsibility to these people, not to the lobbyists in the hallway who represent the drug companies. They are doing quite well, thank you.

We have a responsibility to the people whom we were sent to represent. They may not have a lobbyist, but they have a vote and a voice and we will hear from them.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THUNE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, each year, during the month of February, Amer-

ica celebrates the achievements, contributions, and history of the African-American community.

In previous years, I have had the honor of joining my colleague Congressman John Lewis on his civil rights pilgrimage to Alabama and Tennessee.

It is an extraordinary journey that changes all who partake.

It connects us to our history, our geography, our shame and redemption, and to the astonishing bravery and commitment of the civil rights leaders who fought for America's honor: Martin Luther King, Jr., his wife Coretta Scott, Rosa Parks, the Greensboro Four, to name a few.

Their willingness to face violence and intimidation, injustice and oppression, with steadfast love and bravery transformed America.

Indeed, it led to a great awakening that continues to reverberate around the world.

This year, as we celebrate those extraordinary individuals and events, let us also recognize the exceptional leaders in our midst who toil every day for justice and racial reconciliation.

This year, I have the pleasure of presenting Mr. Jeffrey T. Higgs of Memphis, TN, with my office's first ever American New Trailblazer Award in honor of Black History Month.

In January, my office sent out requests to over 200 recipients of our African-American leader's newsletter. We asked our readers to nominate individuals of extraordinary character and achievement.

We received the nominations of published authors, clergy, local community leaders, and business professionals. All were deserving candidates and I am both humbled by and proud of their example of service.

After culling through the nominations, we chose Mr. Higgs for his outstanding work as executive director of LeMoyne-Owen College Community Development Corporation.

For over 15 years, Mr. Higgs has been involved in urban community housing, economic development and micro lending.

As CEO of the multi-million-dollar organization, he has led the efforts to revitalize the community surrounding LeMoyne-Owen College.

Among his many development projects, he led the renovation of the historic JE Walker House. Today, the building serves as a community resource center for housing development, computer training, economic development and investment.

Currently, Mr. Higgs is leading the charge for 2 major capital projects generating over \$25 million in economic activity.

His sponsor for the award, Bridget Chisolm, President and CEO of BBC Consulting, wrote to tell us that Mr. Higgs is, "truly a Renaissance man and community trailblazer. We are blessed to have such a leader striving to make a good city great."

Indeed, America is blessed to have individuals like Mr. Higgs selflessly serving his fellow citizens.

I congratulate Mr. Higgs for his contributions to his community. And I thank him for carrying forward the torch of social justice.

As we close this month of celebration, let us remember that the movement is not over. So much has changed in so very short a time. But the great hope of the movement has yet to be realized: full equality not only before the law, but in the lives of every citizen.

It is citizens like Mr. Higgs who are working to make that happen.

I close with a quote from the great Dr. King.

In his historic speech following the march to Selma, the Reverend told his fellow freedom marchers,

We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience. And that will be a day not of the white man, not of the black man. That will be the day of man as man.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions" is the theme this year of African American History Month. On this last day of the Month I want to pay a special tribute to the Alpha Phi Alpha, which is the oldest of the African American Greek-letter collegiate fraternities and sororities. Alpha, which I am proud to say has its headquarters in Baltimore, this year celebrates its centennial. For the past one hundred years Alpha has upheld the principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and the uplifting of humanity principles that command our respect and admiration.

It has been my privilege to work closely with Alpha in the effort to establish an appropriate memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in our Nation's Capital. More than 20 years ago I introduced legislation to assure that a monument would be built, and it took a decade to get the legislation enacted. Since 1996, when the bill was signed into law, we have moved steadily forward. The site on the Mall is set, lying between the Memorial to President Franklin Roosevelt and the Lincoln Memorial. The magnificent design is in hand. The challenging work of raising the necessary funds continues, and in this Alpha and the other African American campus organizations play a vital role. I look forward to the day, not too far in the future, when we will have on the Mall a monument worthy of Dr. King's legacy, to remind us and future generations of the struggles the civil rights movement endured, and to inspire us all to continue the movement.

Even as we celebrate our progress toward a memorial to Dr. King, we mourn the loss of two great Americans, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King.

When Rosa Parks died 4 months ago, all Americans mourned her passing. Fifty years ago, with a singular courageous act that in the words of the New York Times became a "mythic event," she galvanized the civil rights movement and helped to write a new and hopeful chapter in our history. As the Times put it, "(W)hat seems a simple gesture of defiance so many years later was in fact a dangerous, even reckless move" at the time. Her steadfastness in the face of harsh and unjust laws struck a chord in the nation's conscience and challenged us to build a society worthy of the principles on which it was founded. When Ms. Parks was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999, I was honored to have an opportunity to meet her. At the time of her death I joined with my Senate colleagues in honoring her at her memorial service.

We lost a second courageous leader with the death more recently of Coretta Scott King. She was a student at the New England Conservatory of Music with plans for a musical career when she met her future husband, but she was from the beginning his steadfast partner in the arduous fight for civil rights and a more decent and humane society. After Dr. King's death she continued the fight with the quiet dignity and determination that were her hallmarks. It was a privilege to work with Mrs. King on the legislation establishing Martin Luther King day as a national holiday; I deeply regret that she could not live long enough to see the memorial to her husband built as well.

Last month we honored Dr. Martin Luther King and his legacy. If he were with us today, Dr. King would be deeply gratified by the national tributes paid to Ms. Parks and Mrs. King. In the 50 years since Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King and Rosa Parks first challenged the Nation to live up to its founding principles, we have come a long way. We have changed our laws fundamentally to assure the rights of all Americans. We have worked together—at the local, State and national level—to create hope and opportunity where there was none, and to guarantee respect for every person.

The role of the Black fraternal, social and civic institutions in bringing about these changes cannot be overstated. Over the years they have fought for justice in courts of law and in the court of public opinion, and worked tirelessly to promote equality and opportunity for all.

Still, much remains to be done. Working together we continue to build the society for which Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King stood, and fought. Success in this effort is the finest tribute we can pay to them.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Black History Month and pay tribute to the enormous and varied contributions African Americans have made to our Nation.

The other evening, on the final night of the Olympics, Tom Brokaw of NBC

News did a story about an American soldier named Vernon Baker who fought in Italy in World War II. Mr. Baker is now 86 years old. He was just a young man on the day in 1945 when he wiped out three Nazi machine gun nests and took out an enemy observation post.

Mr. Baker came home from the war without much fanfare. But like the 1.7 million other Black soldiers who served our Nation during World War II, he came home a changed man. After fighting on foreign soil against an enemy that claimed superiority to other races, these men could no longer accept second-class treatment in their own country.

World War II was the catalyst that finally convinced a significant portion of the American people that segregation was wrong. It was the beginning of the end of segregation in our Nation.

After World War II, 432 Americans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Not one of them was African American. Finally, in 1997, the Government bestowed our Nation's highest medal on six Black veterans of World War II. Vernon Baker was the only one of those men still alive to accept his award.

Mr. Baker's story mirrors Black history in our Nation in the last half of the 20th century. It is a story of determination and hope. During World War II, African Americans fought to keep our Nation free, even when their own freedom was not fully enjoyed. In the same way, the ideas and talent of African Americans have always enriched American life, even as their own lives were impoverished by racism and the vestiges of slavery.

From the Nobel laureate Toni Morrison to the great composer Duke Ellington, from the brilliant jurist Thurgood Marshall to my old friend Larry Doby, the first Black baseball player in the American League, from the uplifting leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr., to the heroism of Vernon Baker, African Americans have inspired and enlightened our Nation.

I join the people of New Jersey in celebrating the contributions of African American citizens during Black History Month.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week to heighten awareness and emphasize prevention of eating disorders.

More than 10 million Americans today struggle with eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and compulsive eating. Not only do these serious illnesses afflict people of all races and socioeconomic groups, eating disorders are now striking more men and children. The harm to the victims and their families can be tragically devastating, yet too often they continue to suffer in silence.

This week, I hope that we can take an important step to reach out to them and let them know that help is available. Inadequate information, misunderstandings, or shame should never be a barrier to recovery.

For this reason, I proudly sponsored Eating Disorders Information and Education Act of 1997 and the very first Senate resolution, S. Res. 197, to designate a National Eating Disorders Awareness Day. And it is the same reason I rise today. I hope that my colleagues will join me in this effort to improve eating disorder awareness, prevention, and treatment.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Ms. Chelsey Cogil, a resident of Zephyr Cove, NV, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEAR SENATOR REID: Hello! My name is Chelsey Cogil and I am writing to inform you that National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is coming up next month starting on February 26th and lasting until March 4th.

Coming from a family where eating disorders run common, I know first hand the importance of spreading eating disorder awareness and prevention.

I would be absolutely delighted if you would make a statement, in support of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, about the importance of spreading eating disorders awareness. Below are some statistics that I encourage you to read.

Thank you for your time and help!

Very Sincerely,

CHELSEY COGIL,
Zephyr Cove, NV.

The Renfrew Center Foundation for Eating Disorders, "Eating Disorders 101 Guide: A Summary of Issues, Statistics and Resources," published September 2002, revised October 2003, <http://www.renfrew.org>: 1 in 5 women struggle with an eating disorder or disordered eating; Up to 24 million people suffer from an eating disorder in the United States; Up to 70 million people world wide struggle with an eating disorder; Nearly half of all Americans personally know someone with an eating disorder; Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness; The mortality rate associated with anorexia nervosa is 12 times higher than the death rate of ALL causes of death for females 15-24 years old. Anorexia is the 3rd most common chronic illness among adolescents; Eating disorders are higher among young women with type 1 diabetes than among young women in the general population.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, February is American Heart Month. As co-chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, I rise today to urge my colleagues to commit to the fight against this devastating disease.

Heart disease remains the Nation's leading cause of death. Stroke is the No. 3 killer. More than 70 million adults in the United States suffer from heart disease, stroke, or other cardiovascular diseases. Cardiovascular diseases will cost our Nation an estimated \$403 billion in 2006, including more than \$250 billion in direct medical costs.